Illumination and beautification of historical monuments in Delhi

1606. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been formulated to illuminate and beautify some of the major monuments of historical importance in Delhi, along the lines of London, Vienna, Barcelona and Rome, in the run up to the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) if so, the details of the plan drawn up and the present status of its implementation; and

(c) the details of any similar plans drawn up for such monuments, which are of special tourist interest, in other parts of the country also?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is planned to illuminate 15 heritage sites and monuments in Delhi.

(c) Plans are being drawn up for illumination of Agra Fort and Bodhgaya Temple. Further, assistance is given to State Governments for improvement of tourist infrastructure which includes illumination projects, light and sound shows.

Attraction of more tourists

1607. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite its potential to attract more than 10 million overseas tourists a year, India had to content with a mere 3.6 million tourists visiting India during the year 2005;

(b) whether Croatia with a 4 million population gets around 10 million foreign tourists annually;